

## THE CLAIMS:

1. to 9. (cancel these withdrawn claims without prejudice)

AI 10. (Amended) Apparatus for processing substantially rectangular shaped tread strips salvaged from tire carcasses having two shorter ends and two longer sides to obtain patterned strips of precise dimension and shape comprising in combination: power actuated strip feeder means for grasping one shorter end of the tread strips and passing them through a linear transit path, and strip shaping means along the [length thereof] transit path operable during [the] transit of the strips through said linear transit path to remove tread strip portions along the two longer sides to produce a narrower rectangular shaped strip between said two shorter ends.

11. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein the strip shaping means further comprises [comprising] means for providing tread strips of uniform width from said rectangular shaped tread strips [having] with indentation [slicing] means operable at designated spacings near opposite edges of raw input tread strips as the strips pass through the transit path [to cut away] for indenting edges between said two shorter ends and producing [produce uniform] longitudinal strip [widths] edges with relaxed tension thereby encouraging the narrower strip to lie flat [between said two shorter ends as the strips pass through the strip feeder.

12. (Original) Apparatus defined in Claim 10 wherein the strip shaping means comprises two sequential shaping devices for shaping the tread strips in different ways at two sequential stations along the strip transit path.

13. Cancel Claim 13.

14. (Amended) Apparatus as defined in Claim 10 wherein the shaping means comprises indentation means for introducing a set of longitudinally spaced indentation patterns extending along [opposite strip longitudinal edges] the longer sides of the tread strips.

A1 15. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 14 wherein said tread strips have a tread surface and a surface opposite to the tread surface and wherein said indentation patterns comprise indentations in [a] the surface of the tread strip opposite to the tread.

16. Cancel Claim 16.

112 17. (Original) Apparatus defined in Claim 10 wherein the shaping means comprises cutting means for laterally cutting at least one end of the tread strip to define a tread strip of precision length.

18. (Original) Apparatus defined in Claim 10 wherein the shaping means comprises means for removing tread surface from the tread strip to establish tread strips of uniform thickness.